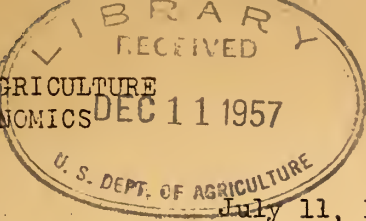


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
WASHINGTON, D. C.



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HYBRIDS ON 4 OUT OF 7 ACRES OF CORN

Corn hybrids, no longer a novelty but accepted on their proven merits, continue to grow in popularity. In part of the central Corn Belt, hybrids have been accepted so completely that open-pollinated seed corn now is a novelty. The non-hybrid acreage in this area is virtually confined to the fields in which parent stock for hybrid seed is propagated. Equal in importance, perhaps, with the increased acreage desired under wartime conditions, hybrids are contributing to the stepped-up production of corn demanded by the emergency. The increment in yield, estimated at about 20 percent over open-pollinated varieties under identical conditions, enables producers to obtain the desired production with relatively small increases in planted acreage, thus releasing acres for other crops also in emergency demand.

The continued growth in popularity of hybrid seed corn is revealed in estimates of the Crop Reporting Board. Nearly 57 million acres, or 57 percent of the corn acreage of the United States, was planted with hybrid seed in 1944. This is an increase of 7 million acres over the 1943 hybrid acreage, which in turn was 8 million acres more than in 1942. Of this 1944 total nearly 52 million acres of hybrid are in the main Corn Belt, where there were 46 million acres in 1943. These Corn Belt acreages represent 91 and 93 percent, respectively, of all the hybrid acreage in the country. Since this is the area of higher yields per acre it follows that about three-fourths of the total production of corn in the United States in 1944 will be that grown from hybrid seed.

Already hybrids occupy 99 percent of the corn acreage in Iowa, 97 percent in Indiana, 96 percent in Illinois, and 94 percent in Ohio. Portions of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, and Nebraska immediately adjacent to those States also grow 95 or more percent hybrids. Covering an adjacent area in these latter States and extending into parts of Michigan, Kansas and Kentucky, is a band in which 80 percent or more of the corn acreage is in hybrids. This area has widened and intensified recently, particularly to the northward as newly adapted and silage hybrids have been developed.

Wherever adapted hybrids are available their use has been intensified. Scattered areas, as in Connecticut, New Jersey, in irrigated sections of Colorado, Utah, Idaho, and the Pacific Coast States have expanded the use of hybrid seed. Adapted crosses are appearing in considerable volume in Middle Atlantic and central Southern States to the westward, also in Florida. Some headway also is shown in adapting and adopting hybrids in other Southern and Western States. Individual States in which half or more of the corn acreage in 1944 was planted with hybrid seed, in rank by percentages, include Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Missouri, Nebraska, Michigan, New Jersey, Idaho, Maryland, Rhode Island and Connecticut, Pennsylvania and South Dakota, Oregon, and Massachusetts. Five of these, Maryland, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Oregon, and Massachusetts are additions to a similar list for 1943.

From an estimate of 0.1 percent of the national total or 143,000 acres in 1933, in 12 years the hybrid acreage has expanded to 57 percent and 56,818,000 acres in 1944. Annual estimates are tabulated below:

Year	Percent of total acres	Acres of hybrid	Year	Percent of total acres	Acres of hybrid	Year	Percent of total acres	Acres of hybrid
1933	0.1	143,000	1937	7.9	7,632,000	1941	39.1	34,226,000
1934	0.4	372,000	1938	14.9	14,076,000	1942	45.7	41,636,000
1935	1.1	1,140,000	1939	22.5	20,621,000	1943	51.3	49,811,000
1936	3.1	3,166,000	1940	30.4	27,066,000	1944	57.0	56,818,000

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CORN ACREAGE PLANTED WITH HYBRID SEED, 1943-1944

State	1943			1944		
	: Percentage : Indicated :			: Percentage : Indicated		
	: All Corn : planted with: Hybrid corn: All Corn : planted with: Hybrid Corn			: Acreage : Hybrid seed: Acreage : Acreage : Hybrid seed: Acreage		
	Thous. acres	Percent	Thousand acres	Percent	Thous. acres	
Me.	16	17.0	3	17	30.0	5
N.H.	15	20.0	3	16	35.0	6
Vt.	64	30.0	19	65	36.0	23
Mass.	41	35.0	14	46	50.0	23
R. I.	8	45.0	4	8	55.0	4
Conn.	48	55.0	26	52	55.0	29
N. Y.	654	29.8	195	732	31.0	227
N. J.	181	72.3	131	194	69.0	134
Pa.	1,298	44.7	580	1,402	54.0	757
Ohio	3,544	91.5	3,243	3,828	94.0	3,598
Ind.	4,338	95.9	4,160	4,685	97.0	4,544
Ill.	8,621	96.1	8,285	9,224	96.0	8,855
Mich.	1,562	62.9	982	1,812	71.0	1,287
Wis.	2,529	81.2	2,054	2,706	85.0	2,300
Minn.	5,356	87.5	4,686	5,999	89.0	5,339
Iowa	10,937	99.3	10,860	11,484	99.0	11,369
Mo.	4,931	70.7	3,486	5,030	79.0	3,974
N. Dak.	1,188	16.3	194	1,283	22.0	282
S. Dak.	3,834	43.8	1,679	3,987	54.0	2,153
Nebr.	8,502	63.5	5,399	9,012	72.0	6,489
Kans.	3,872	30.1	1,165	3,756	44.0	1,653
Corn Belt	59,214	78.0	46,193	62,806	82.5	51,843
Del.	130	26.2	34	139	32.0	44
Md.	457	46.8	214	503	57.0	287
Va.	1,345	12.7	171	1,399	23.0	322
W. Va.	417	29.5	123	425	31.0	132
N. C.	2,335	1.7	40	2,358	2.0	47
S. C.	1,561	0.7	11	1,467	1.0	15
Ga.	3,804	0.6	23	3,652	1.0	37
Fla.	747	4.8	36	732	11.0	81
Ky.	2,753	35.8	986	2,891	49.0	1,417
Tenn.	2,883	7.8	225	2,710	10.0	271
Ala.	3,257	1.5	49	3,192	2.0	64
Miss.	2,880	3.6	104	2,707	4.0	108
Ark.	2,108	8.0	169	2,045	14.0	286
La.	1,431	1.9	27	1,317	4.0	53
Okla.	2,097	4.9	103	1,971	7.0	138
Tex.	5,610	1.5	84	5,049	3.0	151
Mont.	198	2.8	6	208	4.0	8
Idaho	36	54.3	20	32	61.0	20
Wyo.	124	3.2	4	103	5.0	5
Colo.	987	14.6	144	957	21.0	201
N. Mex.	210	5.5	12	200	10.0	20
Ariz.	37	-	-	40	-	-
Utah	29	21.7	6	26	34.0	9
Nev.	4	9.8	-	4	14.0	1
Wash.	31	41.9	13	31	48.0	15
Oreg.	52	43.0	22	43	52.0	22
Calif.	74	23.0	17	67	20.0	13
U.S.	97,136	51.3	49,811	99,606	57.0	56,818